

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04429 201419Z

54

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 PRS-01 RSC-01

SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-10 FAA-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 059210

O 201310Y DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8360

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 4429

MADRID FOR ASST SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF

SUBJ: ROME ATROCITY - LUFTHANSA HIJACKING

REF: A. STATE 247143; B. KUWAIT 4425

1. FONMIN SHAikh SABAH RECEIVED ME AFTER LUNCH HE HOSTED FOR JAPANESE DEPUTY PM MIKI AT SHERATON HOTEL DEC 20. I CONVEYED TO HIM MESSAGE CONTAINED STATE REFTEL IN FULL IN ARABIC, BEARING DOWN PARTICULARLY HARD ON NEED TO DEAL VERY STERNLY WITH PERPETRATORS OF OUTRAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04429 201419Z

2. SHAIK SABAH SAID HE APPRECIATED SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF USG MESSAGE. FIRST, HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WISHED SAY THAT WORDS COULD NOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS HIS SHOCK AND HORROR, AND THAT OF GOK, AT THIS INHUMAN CRIME. ALL VICTIMS, MOROCCAH N AMERICAN AND OTHERS WERE EQUALLY INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS SENSELESS OUTRAGE. POLITICS, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEOPLES AND NATIONS HAD NO PLACE IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS ATROCITY. THIS WAS CASE OF PURE BUTCHERY WHICH COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE CONSTRUED AS BENEFITING ARAB CAUSE OR PEACE IN ANY WAY WHATEVER. FONMIN ASKED ME CONVEY GOK'S AND HIS OWN PROFOUND REGRET OVER LOSS OF AMERICAN AS WELL AS ALL OTHER LIVES.

3. FONMIN WENT ON TO SAY GOK HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION, IN CONSULTATION WITH MOROCCANS. IDEA OF PROSECUTION IN KUWAIT WAS REJECTED, SINCE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CRIME -- THE KILLINGS -- DID NOT OCCUR IN KUWAIT. HERE, CRIMINALS COULD BE TRIED ONLYHAUS THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVIES AFTER ENTERING KUWAIT FOR WHICH THEY WOULD SUFFER MUCH TOO LIGHT A PUNISHMENT.

4. GOK AND GOM HAD THEREFORE AGREED, FONMIN SAID, TO TURN MURDERERS OVER TO PLO RPT PLO WHICH IS OFFICIAL MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE. PLO HAD BEEN TOLD CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCABLY THAT MOROCCANS AND KUWAITIS, AT LEAST, EXPECT HARSHEST POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT METED OUT. PLO HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT FAILURE TO PUNISH CRIMINALS ADEQUATELY COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN GOK AND GOM AND PLO. FONMIN ADDED HE WOULD NOT AT ALL EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY PERPETRATORS WILL BE CONDEMNED TO DEATH, POSSIBLY EVEN PUBLICLY EXECUTED.

5. I SAID SPEAKING PERSONALLY I HAD TO WONDER WHETHER PLO REALLY WOULD METE OUT PUNISHMENT CRIMINALS DESERVED. FONMIN REPLIED VERY FIRMLY "THEY'D BETTER; THESE CRIMES WHICH HURT PALESTINIANS AND ALL ARABS WORSE THAN ANYONE ELSE MUST BE STOPPED".

6. RE PARA TWO REF A, I TOUCHED BASE WITH ALL THREE COLLEAGUES, NONE OF WHOM HAD YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AT TIME MY MEETING WITH FONMIN. KUWAITI CONTACTS WITH MOROCCANS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN HANDLED ELSEWHERE. GERMAN IS ONLY ONE SO FAR WHO KNOWS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04429 201419Z

SUBSTANCE OUR DEMARCHE.

7. COMMENT: KUWAITIS ARE OBVIOUSLY SHAKEN BY THIS LATEST TERRORIST OPERATION AND MY IMPRESSION IS KUWAITIS EXPECT, ALONG WITH MOST OTHER ARAB STATES, TO TRY HOLD PLO'S FEET TO THE FIRE THIS TIME.

STOLTZFUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, CASUALTIES, PARAMILITARY FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT04429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731254/aaaajzkw.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 247143; B. KUWAIT 4425
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>; WITHDRAWN <24-Oct-2001 by shawdg, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980313
Subject: ROME ATROCITY - LUFTHANSA HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS, IT, XF, LUFTHANSA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005